



Attorney's Docket No.: 07078-003003

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4/19/03

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Yamamoto, et al.
Serial No. : 09/782,794
Filed : February 13, 2001
Title : BONE GRAFTING MATRIX

Art Unit : 3738
Examiner : Javier G. Blanco

BOX AF

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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TECHNOLOGY CENTER R8700

RESPONSE

Sir,

This is in response to the Final Office Action of September 24, 2002. A response is due by December 24, 2002. This response is being submitted within two months of the final rejection.

Please amend the claim as follows:

In the claims:

19. (Twice amended): A method of bone repair comprising the step of applying a composition comprising a porous, biodegradable, three-dimensionally stable matrix having shape retention comprising a bound network of water-insoluble mineralized biopolymer having mineral immobilized thereon and a water-insoluble binder, effective to promote bone growth at a desired site of bone repair.

REMARKS

Claims 19, 20, 24 and 25 are in the application. Claim 19 has been amended. No claim is allowed.

Claims 19, 20, 24 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being clearly anticipated by Rhee et al. (U.S. 5,264,214). The Examiner states that Rhee discloses a method of

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